

**To:** Widener, Charles (Chuck)[Widener.Charles@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]  
**From:** Sowell, Sarah  
**Sent:** Thur 1/26/2017 3:02:24 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Need clarification on communication guidance from Administration's Beach Team - OEI intranet websites

George,

When Chuck and I discussed this, our take was that these types of updates should be okay. However, I was reluctant to give the green light without a thumbs up from you, since I know wasn't sure of the specifics of what we're being asked to stand by on.

Sarah

**From:** Widener, Charles (Chuck)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2017 9:58 AM  
**To:** Hull, George <Hull.George@epa.gov>; Sowell, Sarah <Sowell.Sarah@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Need clarification on communication guidance from Administration's Beach Team - OEI intranet websites

Good morning George,

I spoke to Lisa this morning about the below request to update OEI Intranet pages. Basically, there are many software programs and services that OEI is working on, and they would like to update their pages. Lisa informed me that they are only talking about IT related pages that deal with software and services (i.e. Windows sites, Voicemail pages, EZ Tech services, Adobe software, etc.)

If you'd like, I can update her. I know you are busy. Just let me know if you think these types of updates are ok or not.

Best,

Chuck

---

**Chuck Widener**

Office of Internal Communications

Office of Public Affairs

US Environmental Protection Agency

Mailing Address: 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Mail Code: 1703A, Washington, D.C. 20460

Tel: 202-564-8403 | [widener.charles@epa.gov](mailto:widener.charles@epa.gov)

**From:** Reiter, Lisa

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2017 9:05 AM

**To:** Hull, George <[Hull.George@epa.gov](mailto:Hull.George@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Kadeli, Annie <[Kadeli.Annie@epa.gov](mailto:Kadeli.Annie@epa.gov)>; Wagner, Cory <[Wagner.Cory@epa.gov](mailto:Wagner.Cory@epa.gov)>; Galloway, Barbara <[galloway.barbara@epa.gov](mailto:galloway.barbara@epa.gov)>; Martin, JohnT <[martin.johnt@epa.gov](mailto:martin.johnt@epa.gov)>; Widener, Charles (Chuck) <[Widener.Charles@epa.gov](mailto:Widener.Charles@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Need clarification on communication guidance from Administration's Beach Team - OEI intranet websites

**Importance:** High

Hi George,

OEI needs clarification on the communication guidance – see below. OEI is constantly updating and adding new web pages for our IT/IM services and projects. Does this guidance affect the Agency's intranet websites?

Also, I assume that I should forward this communication guidance onto OEI's management – correct? I am unclear on this, since OEI was not included in Monday's meeting.

Effective Immediately -

These restrictions are effective immediately and will remain in place until further direction is received from the new Administration's Beach Team. Please review this material and share with all appropriate individuals in your organization. If anyone on your staff receives a press inquiry of any kind, it must be referred to me so I can coordinate with the appropriate individuals in OPA.

- No press releases will be going out to external audiences.
- No social media will be going out. A Digital Strategist will be coming on board to oversee social media. Existing, individually controlled, social media accounts may become more centrally controlled.
- No blog messages.
- The Beach Team will review the list of upcoming webinars and decide which ones will go forward.
- Please send me a list of any external speaking engagements that are currently scheduled among any of your staff from today through February.
- Incoming media requests will be carefully screened.
- No new content can be placed on any website. Only do clean up where essential.
- List servers will be reviewed. Only send out critical messages, as messages can be shared broadly and end up in the press.

I will provide updates to this information if I receive anything further.

Thanks,  
Lisa Reiter

Acting OEI Communications Director  
Office of Environmental Information

Office of Customer Advocacy, Policy & Portfolio Management  
Customer Advocacy & Communications Division  
EPA West – 5415 C

[reiter.lisa@epa.gov](mailto:reiter.lisa@epa.gov)

Desk - 202-566-2185

Mobile - 202-384-6538

**To:** Rodan, Bruce[rodan.bruce@epa.gov]; Kavlock, Robert[Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov]; Robbins, Chris[Robbins.Chris@epa.gov]; Radzikowski, Mary Ellen[Radzikowski.Maryellen@epa.gov]; Hubbard, Carolyn[Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov]  
**From:** Blackburn, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Wed 1/25/2017 5:23:53 PM  
**Subject:** RE: EPA Scientists' Work May Face 'Case By Case' Review By Trump Team, Official Says

No – but it's out there and now we can understand where the anxiety about publishing and speaking is coming from.

Liz Blackburn

Chief of Staff

EPA Office of Research and Development

202-564-2192

Mobile Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

**From:** Rodan, Bruce  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2017 12:22 PM  
**To:** Blackburn, Elizabeth <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Kavlock, Robert <Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov>; Robbins, Chris <Robbins.Chris@epa.gov>; Radzikowski, Mary Ellen <Radzikowski.Maryellen@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: EPA Scientists' Work May Face 'Case By Case' Review By Trump Team, Official Says

Liz,

Did we receive this directly from the Transition team? I am loathe to just interpret a press summary, especially when there are nuances between journal submissions with disclaimers versus social media outlets.

Bruce Rodan

**From:** Blackburn, Elizabeth

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2017 12:19 PM

**To:** Kavlock, Robert <[Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov](mailto:Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov)>; Robbins, Chris <[Robbins.Chris@epa.gov](mailto:Robbins.Chris@epa.gov)>; Radzikowski, Mary Ellen <[Radzikowski.Maryellen@epa.gov](mailto:Radzikowski.Maryellen@epa.gov)>; Rodan, Bruce <[rodan.bruce@epa.gov](mailto:rodan.bruce@epa.gov)>; Hubbard, Carolyn <[Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov](mailto:Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: EPA Scientists' Work May Face 'Case By Case' Review By Trump Team, Official Says

FYI.

Liz Blackburn

Chief of Staff

EPA Office of Research and Development

202-564-2192

Mobile Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

## EPA Scientists' Work May Face 'Case By Case' Review By Trump Team, Official Says

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/01/25/511572169/epa-scientists-work-may-face-case-by-case-review-by-trump-team-official-says>

January 25, 2017 9:43 AM ET

NATHAN ROTT

Scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency who want to publish or present their scientific findings likely will need to have their work reviewed on a "case by case basis" before it can be disseminated, according to a spokesman for the agency's transition team.

In an interview Tuesday evening with NPR, [Doug Ericksen](#), the head of communications for the Trump administration's EPA transition team, said that during the transition period, he expects scientists will undergo an unspecified internal vetting process before sharing their work outside the agency.

"We'll take a look at what's happening so that the voice coming from the EPA is one that's going to reflect the new administration," Ericksen told NPR.

Ericksen did not say whether such a review process would become a permanent feature of Trump's EPA. "We're on Day 2 here. ... You've got to give us a few days to get our feet underneath us."

Any review would directly contradict the agency's current [scientific integrity policy](#), which was published in 2012. It prohibits "all EPA employees, including scientists, managers and other Agency leadership from suppressing, altering, or otherwise impeding the timely release of scientific findings or conclusions."

It also would likely have a chilling effect on the agency's ability to conduct research on the environmental issues it is charged with regulating.

Ericksen's comments come just days after Trump's team ordered agencies to limit their external communications to the public. Employees at the EPA, the Department of Agriculture and the Interior Department, among others, have been instructed not to post on social media accounts. At the EPA, staff was told not to speak to the news media.

Ericksen said it's not abnormal for administrations to limit outward communication during their transition while they work toward getting different branches on point. Trump's nominee for EPA administrator, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, is still awaiting confirmation.

It's also not abnormal for administrations to restrict access to government scientists. In 2013, a statement by the Society of Environmental Journalists called the EPA under former-President Obama "[one of the most closed, opaque agencies to the press](#)."

"It's certainly the case that every administration tries to control information, but I think that what we're seeing here is much more sweeping than has ever been done before," said Andrew Light, the distinguished senior fellow in the Global Climate Program at the nonpartisan World Resource Institute. "And in particular, it's noteworthy that it seems to be aimed at a cluster of science-driven agencies that primarily work on the environment and climate change."

While previous administrations have restricted government scientists' communications to the public, controlling their scientific conclusions is far more rare.

Perhaps the most notable case came in 2003, when the administration of President George W. Bush tried to alter the climate change section of a major EPA report on the environment.

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, which tracks such issues, [changes included](#) the deletion of a 1,000 year temperature record and insertion of a study funded by the American Petroleum Institute.

Many federal agencies employ scientists to help conduct research. Those findings are crucial in ensuring that regulations and government policy are based on the best information available. Data collected by federal scientists is also used by state and local governments as well as private industry.

The EPA's policy, like those of other technical agencies within the government, is designed to encourage its scientists to participate in the scientific process. To that end, the agency's official policy is to "encourage publication and presentation of research findings in peer-reviewed, professional, or scholarly journals and at professional meetings."

There's a [growing concern](#) in the scientific community and among environmental organizations that the new administration might take aim at climate change research in particular. Trump has previously called climate change a hoax created by China to hurt the U.S. economy, though he later said he had an "open mind" on the issue. In the weeks before his inauguration, groups of

scientists  rushed to copy and preserve  federal public climate data out of fear that it would be purged.

Ericksen said that under Trump, the EPA will focus on its "core mission, which is to protect the environment and protect human health."

When asked if climate change fit into that, he repeated that they'll focus on the core mission.

Pressed further about whether specific research on issues such as climate change could be withheld, Ericksen told NPR that "it's premature to comment on a hypothetical before we've even had the time to look at what's currently happening in the [agency]."

Moira

---

Moira McGuinness

Science Communications Web Content Coordinator

EPA Office of Research and Development  
202-564-1507—desk

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy —mobile

[mcguinness.moir@epa.gov](mailto:mcguinness.moir@epa.gov)



**To:** Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Ericksen, Doug[ericksen.doug@epa.gov]  
**From:** Konkus, John  
**Sent:** Sun 2/5/2017 1:09:51 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Wall Street Journal comment request, re: science directives

I am fine with the very short and direct draft answers in bold below.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 4, 2017, at 10:16 PM, Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hi Doug and John,

Please see my suggested replies below .

Thanks ng

**Nancy Grantham**

**Office of Public Affairs**

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**202-564-6879 (desk)**

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy (mobile)

Daniela Hernandez

Digital Science Editor

The Wall Street Journal

o: 212 416 3886

c: 310 991 2391

e: [daniela.hernandez@wsj.com](mailto:daniela.hernandez@wsj.com)

Julia P. Valentine

Assoc. Dir./Acting Dir.  
U.S. EPA, Ofc of Media Relations

202.564.2663 direct

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy m/txt

**From:** Hernandez, Daniela [<mailto:daniela.hernandez@wsj.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 11:34 AM  
**To:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** URGENT: Wall Street Journal comment request

Hi,

I'm a reporter and editor at the Wall Street Journal. I'm working on a story about groups of scientists, librarians and engineers organizing events to download data from federal databases, as there is some concern these public resources could be targeted under the new administration. The story focuses on their efforts and uses of the data.

Could you please comment on the following:

\* Have there been any new directives from the Trump administration about what information on the EPA website will remain and which will go?

No

\* Have there been any directives from the Trump administration to stop making EPA databases publicly available?

**No**

\* Have there been any indications from the Trump administration that funding to design, build, maintain, utilize or provide access to new or existing EPA databases will be cut?

**No**

\* Are EPA employees free to participate in organized data archiving events like the ones put on by EDGI or the Data Refuge project from the University of Pennsylvania?

**Presume yes – in their personal capacity.**

Best,

Daniela Hernandez

Digital Science Editor

The Wall Street Journal

o: 212 416 3886

c: 310 991 2391

e: [daniela.hernandez@wsj.com](mailto:daniela.hernandez@wsj.com)